



MEDIA RELEASE

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Marijuana "Forest" Cut Down By Nevada Department of Public Safety *More than 3000 marijuana plants seized*

Carson City: Officers from the Nevada Department of Public Safety-Investigation Division, working with deputies from the Esmeralda County Sheriff's Office, removed more than 3,000 marijuana plants that were growing in a remote area in Esmeralda County near the Nevada-California state line.

A hiker happened upon the marijuana field and notified authorities. Investigators noted a sophisticated irrigation system for the marijuana plants, with water coming from a nearby stream. The remote location and complexity of the marijuana field suggests the grower or growers had invested considerable resources into the operation. The street value of the marijuana seized is estimated between \$800,000 and \$1,000,000.

"We are drawing plenty of satisfaction knowing these drugs will not be sold or used in Nevada or anywhere else," said Esmeralda County Sheriff Kenneth Elgan. Nevada Department of Public Safety Director Jerry Hafen agreed, saying, "Whether it is meth, prescription drug diversion, or remote marijuana fields in the Nevada wilderness, our Department is committed to fight the flow of illegal drugs anywhere in Nevada." Hafen also noted that the level of state and local law enforcement cooperation in this case was outstanding. No arrests have been made, but the investigation is continuing. The marijuana plants will be destroyed within the next few days.

NOTE: The seized marijuana plants will be displayed for the news media on Thursday, August 21. Department of Public Safety Lt. David Jones will be available for interviews.

WHAT: 3000+ marijuana plants

WHERE: DPS Training Academy, 2101 Snyder Avenue, Carson City, NV

WHEN: 11:00AM, Thursday, August 21, 2007

POINT OF CONTACT: Lt. David Jones, 775-684-7427